

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. PERU: ARE THE SOVIETS INVOLVED?

MEXICAN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA TOLD AMBASSADOR JOVA THAT, DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO HAVANA, CASTRO PREDICTED A CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP WOULD TAKE PLACE SOON IN PERU DUE TO VELASCO ALVARADO'S POOR HEALTH. CASTRO SPOKE OF PERUVIAN COUP LEADER MORALES BERMUDEZ AS A "MAN OF THE FUTURE WELL WORTH WATCHING." ECHEVERRIA SAID THAT:

--HE SUSPECTED SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN THE COUP, SINCE CASTRO AND OTHERS HAD SPOKEN SO GLOWINGLY OF MORALES BERMUDEZ.

--DESPITE WIRE SERVICE REPORTS DESCRIBING MORALES BERMUDEZ AS A MODERATE, HE THINKS THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT MAY TAKE A SHARP TURN TO THE LEFT. (SECRET)
SECRET

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MEXICO 7686 (LIMDIS), 8/29.)

2. INDONESIANS GROWING IMPATIENT OVER STALEMATE IN TIMOR

WITH THE SITUATION IN DILI AT A STANDSTILL, EMBASSY JAKARTA REPORTS THAT ADVOCATES OF UNILATERAL INDONESIAN INTERVENTION IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR ARE GAINING STRENGTH. ALTHOUGH PRESI-

DENT SUHARTO'S EVENTUAL DECISION IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT:

--GOI OFFICIALS ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY IMPATIENT WITH PORTUGUESE VACILLATION ON INDONESIAN ASSISTANCE.

--PRESS SOURCES REPORT CONTINUING MOVEMENT OF INDONESIAN FORCES TO FORWARD POSITIONS.

PORTUGUESE SPECIAL ENVOY ALMEIDA SANTOS IS NOW IN JAKARTA, BUT THE EXTENT OF HIS MANDATE TO NEGOTIATE IS UNCLEAR AND SUHARTO MAY NOT RECEIVE HIM. (CONFIDENTIAL) JAKARTA 10665, 8/29.)

3. ARABS PRESSURE ZAIRE TO REVERSE ITS STANCE ON ISRAEL

ZAIRE'S SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER BISENGIMANA TOLD CHARGE WALKER THAT THE ARABS, LED BY ALGERIA, HAVE TIED FUTURE OIL DELIVERIES TO CASH PAYMENTS BUT HAVE OFFERED TO LIFT THE RESTRICTION IF ZAIRE REVERSES ITS STANCE TOWARD ISRAEL. ZAIRE IS UNWILLING TO BOW TO ARAB PRESSURE AND IS NEGOTIATING WITH MOBIL FOR CRUDE SUPPLIES. MOBIL WILL BE ABLE TO BEGIN DELIVERIES IN ABOUT ONE MONTH, IF THE NECESSARY BANK GUARANTEES CAN BE ARRANGED. (CONFIDENTIAL) KINSHASA 7887, 8/29.)

4. PALESTINIANS INVOLVED IN LATEST LEBANESE FIGHTING?

EMBASSY BEIRUT REPORTS THAT THE LEBANESE ARE DOWNPLAYING REPORTS ABOUT POSSIBLE PALESTINIAN INVOLVEMENT IN FIGHTING WHICH BROKE OUT IN ZAHLE ON AUGUST 24. WHILE THE SITUATION IN BOTH ZAHLE AND BEIRUT IS UNDER CONTROL, TENSION REMAIN HIGH. (CONFIDENTIAL) BEIRUT 10950, 8/29.)

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5. VIDELA APPOINTMENT EASES ARGENTINA'S CRISIS

EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES REPORTS THAT ARGENTINIANS HAVE BREATHED A SIGH OF RELIEF FOLLOWING GENERAL VIDELA'S APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF STAFF. MILITARY PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT HAS SUBSIDED, AND MOST OBSERVERS EXPECT THE ARMY WILL QUIETLY RETURN TO THE BARRACKS. (CONFIDENTIAL) BUENOS AIRES 5820, 8/29.)

6. THAILAND SOFTENS POSITION ON US TROOP PRESENCE

EMBASSY BANGKOK REPORTS THAT RECENT EVENTS IN INDOCHINA HAVE LED TO A MODERATION OF THAILAND'S DEMANDS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL

OF US TROOPS. THE THAI NOW:

--WILL ACCEPT A NONCOMBATANT US MILITARY PRESENCE, SO
LONG AS IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO THREATEN THAILAND'S
NEIGHBORS; BUT

--ARE STILL DETERMINED THAT THE MARCH 1976 DEADLINE FOR
THE WITHDRAWAL OF COMBAT TROOPS MUST BE MET.(SECRET)
BANGKOK 18234 (EXDIS), 8/29.) INGERSOLL

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